

Liberty's golden price still shines for collectors

By Roger Boye

The price of Uncle Sam's Statue of Liberty gold piece continues to climb because of unrelenting demand from collectors.

Last week, for example, some Chicago dealers were paying at least \$350 for the 1986-dated gold coin, more than double the government's \$170 issue price last November and December. But experts warn that the market is extremely volatile and that prices could drop quickly if demand wanes.

In January, the United States Treasury announced that it had sold all 500,000 statue gold coins it is permitted to make under federal law. The sellout forced officials to return thousands of orders to would-be buyers; presumably, many of those people now are attempting to buy the .24-ounce gold coins from dealers and other collectors.

● Families of the seven Challenger crew members would receive national gold medals if a bill in Congress becomes law.

The proposed legislation authorizes the United States Mint to design and strike the medals as a tribute to the astronauts, who died in the Jan. 28 explosion. Most likely, bureaucrats also would sell to collectors bronze replicas of the gold medals.

As of March 13, the proposal had 18 cosponsors in the U.S. House of Representatives.

● Want to know how much your old coins are worth, free of charge?

Take them to the annual show of the Morton Grove Coin Club between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. next Sunday at the American Legion Hall, 6140 Dempster St., Morton Grove. Club members using the latest reference books will make appraisals at the coin origin and evaluation table.

● Again this year, the American Numismatic Association will award several scholarships to persons between ages 11 and 17 to attend a summer seminar in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Scholarships include round-trip air fare to Colorado, tuition, room and board for the July 6-12 session. Classes will be taught by some well-known hobby pros, such as author and dealer Q. David Bowers.

Winners will be selected on the basis of their interest in coin collecting, school work, and other factors. For application materials, write to Florence M. Schook, ANA national president, Box 2014, Livonia, Mich. 48154. Deadline for completed applications is May 10.